SHRI AJIT SINGH : Madam, Deputy Chairman, the Food-for-Work Programme ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Just now he said that he has reduced prices. (*Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *(Interruptions)* He is responding to your question, but you don't want to hear. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, this is the last question, and then, I will finish this discussion. *(Interruptions)*. No, I am sorry, I did not recognize you. (*Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The Food-for-Work Programme is there for those people in the rural areas, whose crops have withered away and who have not got any work during drought. *(Interruptions)* It is a continuing process.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, this discussion is over. If there are any unanswered questions, the Members can write to the hon. Minister; he will reply to them. You can put questions in the form of Special Mentions also. Now, we will take up Special Mentions. We have got only ten minutes. *(Interruptions)* Before that, we can take up the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002 also. This Bill has already been passed by this House. It was sent to the Lok Sabha, which made certain amendments in it. It is a very simple Bill. Since the hon. Minister is present here, if the House so agree, we can pass it.

GOVERNMENT—BILL

The Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): Sir, I beg to move:

That the following Amendments made by the Lok Sabha in the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002, be taken into consideration, namely:—

CLAUSE 8

That at Page 5 for *line* 40, the following be *substituted,* namely:—

"the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, either in its individual capacity or as a representative of interests of consumers in general."

CLAUSE 9

That at Page 6, *after* line 37, the following proviso be *inserted*, namely :—

"Provided also that in the event of a complaint being disposed of after the period so specified, the District Forum shall record in writing, the reasons for the same at the time of disposing of the said complaint."

CLAUSE 17

That at page 10, *after* line 30, the following proviso be *inserted*, namely :—

"Provided also that in the event of an appeal being disposed of after the period so specified, the State Commission or, the National Commission, as the case may be, shall record in writing the reasons for the same at the time of disposing of the said appeal."

CLAUSE 23A

That at Page 13, *after* line 37, the following new clause be *inserted*, namely :—

23A. After section 27 of the Principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely :—

Appeal against order passed under section 27.

27A(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, an appeal under section 27, both on facts and on law, shall lie from –

(a) the order made by the District Forum to the State Commission;

(b) the order made by the State Commission on the National Commission; and

(c) the order made by the National Commission to the Supreme Court;

(2) Except as aforesaid, no appeal shall lie to any court from any order of a District Forum or a State Commission or the National Commission.

(3) Every appeal under the section shall be preferred within a period of thirty days from the date of an order of a District Forum or a State Commission or, as the case may be, the National Commission:

Provided that the State Commission or the National Commission or the Supreme Court, as the case may be, may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days, if it is satisfied that the appellant had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within the period of thirty days."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Sir, I move:

That the amendments made by the Lok Sabha, in the Bill, be agreed to.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SPECIAL MENTION

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we will take up the Special Mentions. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Madam . . . *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will not take up that matter today. *(Interruptions)* No; no. *(Interruptions)* Now we will take up Special Mentions. *(Interruptions)* No; no, nothing will go on record. *(Interruptions)* No; no. *(Interruptions)* I did not call your name. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Khuntia, please sit down. *(Interruptions)* Let us finish Special Mentions first. *(Interruptions)* Shri Manohar Kant Dhyani.